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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-06 TRSE-00 FRB-03
OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /064 W
----------048574 272231Z /61
R 270027Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6111

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 00410

EB FOR KATZ

USDA FOR SAYLOR AND BERNITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: BERGLAND/WHELAN MEETING

REF: OTTAWA 378

1. GOC MOVING AHEAD WITH PREPARATIONS FOR MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING ON BILATERAL AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS AGREED UPON DURING VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. WITH U.S. FARMERS' PROTEST OF LIVESTOCK IMPORTS NOW APPARENTLY WINDING DOWN--U.S. AND CANADIAN SOURCES REPORT NO RPT NO INTERFERENCE WITH SHIPMENTS THIS WEEK--CANADIAN SENSE OF URGENCY FOR MEETING ON THIS ISSUE HAS DIMINISHED. CONSEQUENTLY, CANADIANS PROPOSE MEETING IN MARCH AND AGRICULTURE CANADA CONTACT BELIEVES MARCH 14 DATE, OPEN ON SECRETARY BERGLAND'S AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HATHAWAY'S SCHEDULES, IS LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE. WE ARE AWAITING CONFIRMATION HOWEVER.

2. INDICATION OF POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS OF INTEREST TO WHELAN, REPORTED REFTEL, RAISES CONCERNS THAT DISCUSSION CONFIDENTIAL

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OF CHICKEN MARKETING AGENCY, IF GOC IS READY TO MOVE BY MARCH, COULD TAKE PLACE OF DETAILED CONSULTATIONS WE HAVE SOUGHT AS BEST MEANS FOR DETERMINING AND PROTECTING OUR TRADE INTEREST. FURTHER COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

3. IN ANY CASE, WE BELIEVE BILATERAL MEETING WOULD

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SERVE TO REVIEW, AND IF NECESSARY AGREE ON COURSE OF
ACTION TOWARD, U.S. FARMERS' PROTEST. THIS WOULD ALSO BE
OCCASION TO CONSIDER, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF ALBERTA
CONCERNS, HOW WE MIGHT BETTER ACCOMMODATE COMMON OBJECTIVES
IN BEEF TRADE AND, IF POSSIBLE, SEEK TO WORK TOWARD
COUNTER-CYCLICAL APPROACH OF INTEREST TO CANADA AS WELL
AS TO U.S. ENDERS

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